

# ***IOWA OUTDOORS***

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**  
**[www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com)**

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**April 22, 2003**

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## **ANNUAL SPRING NETTING YIELDS EXCELLENT NUMBERS OF WALLEYE AT CLEAR LAKE**

By Lowell Washburn  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

CLEAR LAKE--The Department of Natural Resources has completed its annual spring walleye netting at Clear Lake. According to DNR fisheries biologist, Jim Wahl, this year's campaign included seven nights of netting which resulted in the collection of 240 quarts [or 31 million] walleye eggs.

"During this year's walleye spawn, our fisheries crews captured a total of 622 adult brood fish. The final totals for this year's netting effort is just about average for what we've seen during the past fifteen years at Clear Lake," said Wahl.

"However, compared to last spring's gill netting activities, it was a difficult year statewide. The walleye catch was down somewhat on all of our lakes. I think most of that can be blamed on extreme weather conditions, such as our late spring snowstorm, and fluctuating water temperatures. All things considered, Clear Lake came out very well. Our net crews actually collected more walleye eggs here than at other lakes, including Spirit Lake," said Wahl.

"Although our total catch may have down somewhat, we made the most of what we had. This spring, 83 percent of the females captured were successfully spawned -- which represents an extremely high percentage of success," he added.

ALTHOUGH A LIMITED number of 10 to 11 pound walleyes were netted this spring, the dominate class of [female] brood fish averaged around 4 pounds and measured from 20 to 24 inches. The largest fish netted was a 29.7- inch female, which is the largest walleye known to have come through the Clear Lake hatchery, according to DNR fisheries technician, Scott Grummer.

"These 20-inch class fish are a very dominant year class," said Wahl.

"In the short term, these walleyes represent immediate angler access to a very healthy class of catchable fish. But I think that it's equally important to recognize that these fish will also insure a good supply of future brood stock. These walleyes should sustain our hatchery operations for years to come," he said.

WALLEYE EGGS collected at Clear Lake are currently under incubation at state fish hatcheries located at Spirit Lake and Lake Rathbun. When those eggs begin hatching in about two weeks, 16 million of those baby walleyes will be returned to Clear Lake. The remainder of the fry will be distributed to public waters across the state.

In September, the lake will be stocked with an additional 40,000 6 to 8-inch advanced fingerling walleyes.

In Iowa, as elsewhere, the angler demand for walleye often exceeds supply. Natural reproduction is limited, and only 1 to 3 percent of naturally spawned eggs will hatch.

Iowa's state fish hatcheries provide the hatching success needed to sustain game fish populations at fishable levels.

"Without our state fish hatchery operations, we just wouldn't have sustainable walleye fishing in places like Clear Lake," said Wahl.

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## **BAGGING A BIRD, COUNTDOWN TO TURKEY PART 4**

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Sometimes, the turkeys don't follow the script. Sometimes that's good.

Hiking in across the corn stubble on opening day, I could make out a gobble, in the timber beyond. A good sign, since I planned to set up there. For eight or nine years, I've

hunted a logged timber pasture and have seen a fair number of birds. Most of them, however, seem to come from the steep, heavy timber to the south. Often, they would hang up there, never crossing the fence. This year, though, I had permission to hunt both properties.

I never made it to the fence. The awakening tom was too close. On a grown-over logging trail, I quickly plugged my jake and two hen decoys into the turf and settled back against a hillside oak tree. As light hit the timber, I could see I couldn't have gotten much closer. From 70 yards away, I watched two perched hens begin stretching and softly answering the tom. After they flew down, I watched six or seven more coast to the ground. Had I walked much closer, they would all have crashed out of the woods.

The gobbler answered my two early calls, but wasn't coming closer. With a half dozen hens around him, he had no reason. They worked south, away from me. I was left in the wrong place, with my turkey prospects fading. And it was only 6:45 a.m.

I could have held my spot and try to lure back the tom. Or I could relocate to the heavy timber, my original destination. I decided to sleep on it for a few minutes.

From the north, though, came new activity. A staccato 'put, put, put' pinpointed a turkey a couple hundred yards away. A hen? It sounded odd, like a hunter doing a bad job with a mouth call. In either case, it provoked a gobble. On a hunch, I answered over the top of the hen. I've heard a couple people say that sometimes brings an aggressive hen rushing in...with a tom trailing her. For 15 minutes, each time she called, I interrupted her with my own volley. And the tom kept gobbling.

As it turns out, 'she' was a 'he'. I caught a glimpse of three black-brown turkeys working their way up the bluff. As they reappeared, one was fanned out. His technicolor red, white and blue head announced his intention. The other two were year-old jakes. The 'puts' I heard were apparently their alarm calls, as the tom tried to run them off. As they crested the hill into my decoys, one of the jakes pushed ahead. The tom's grand entrance, though, put him in his place. He stepped back as the puffed-up tom cut a couple tight circles. After the second pirouette, he stretched his neck. At 19 yards, it was as close to a sure shot as I would get. He tumbled over dead. I last saw the jakes flying in opposite directions. Fast.

At 25½ pounds, the gobbler was bigger than all but maybe one that I've shot. A couple strands of the bushy beard stretched out 10½ inches and the 15/16 inch spurs indicated he was probably a 2-year old. Spring turkey hunting is my favorite time of the year but it was nice knowing I didn't 'have to' head for the woods, the rest of the week.

#### Countdown to Turkey Season; **Late Season Strategy (last of 4 parts)**

From the last snowflakes to the first green buds; Iowa's first spring turkey season seems to end before it begins.

The four-day first season is popular among hunters who can take advantage of the ‘weekday only’ setup. They also get the edge, calling in naïve gobblers, uneducated by the lack of human activity in the turkey woods. However, its short duration and its more than likely prospect for a last whack by winter steer many hunters into the more hospitable later seasons.

The later stages of turkey season, however, require more adjustment than just shedding a layer of camouflaged clothing. “Even as the second season begins, turkey activity changes some,” stresses Rick White, staff hunting pro with Hunter’s Specialties Industries. “Some of the toms are ‘henned up’ already, spending more time with real hens, instead of responding to your calls. A henned up tom is the hardest to hunt.”

White suggests switching things up a little. Even if turkeys did not detect early season human activity, they are often extra-wary of calls they heard, since they did not correlate with actual hens, when they came closer to investigate. If a mouth call was used during the first season, White will switch to a slate or box call, to give the impression of a new ‘hen’, that some love-struck tom needs to investigate at close range.

He also suggests taking on the ladies, during the later stages. “Reproduce the exact sounds the hens are making. Call over the top of them,” White urges. “Make them mad. They often will come (looking for the mystery bird), dragging the gobbler with them.”

If assured that he is hearing ‘real’ turkeys, and not other hunters, White might scatter the flock; a traditional fall tactic. After an hour away from his hens, the lonesome gobbler can come running toward his tentative hen clucks, trying to regroup his harem.

As the days get longer—and warmer—hens have nests to tend. The pendulum swings back. “Once the hens start sitting on their nests, you will get more gobblers coming in to your calls again,” predicts Department of Natural Resources turkey biologist Todd Gosselink. “It’s a second chance, so to speak, at getting a shot at a gobbler you might not have seen earlier, when he was courting hens.”

And don’t be locked in to the popular break of day hunting prospects. “When hens go off to nest, there are a lot of traveling gobblers out there,” reminds White. “I’ve shot a lot of turkeys in the afternoon.”

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## **IOWANS GEARING UP FOR FREE CAMPING WEEKEND**

DES MOINES – Campers across Iowa are making plans to enjoy a weekend of free camping in Iowa State Parks, Recreation Areas and Forests May 2-4.

Camping in Iowa State Parks is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Reservations are not accepted. Iowa campers will need to register as usual with the exception of paying for the campsite. If Iowans show up on Thursday before the free weekend to register, they will need to pay for Thursday night. Nonresidents will need to pay the appropriate campsite fee during the weekend.

If the weather forecast is good, many of the popular park campgrounds will fill quickly.

"Free camping weekend will be handled just like any other busy holiday weekend in state parks," said Sherry Arntzen, with DNR conservation and recreation division. Arntzen suggests campers call the park before heading out to make sure sites are available. She also added campers might want to consider trying a new park. "Some of our best-kept secrets are the out-of-the-way parks, especially those in southern Iowa."

This year, all participating state parks will have a number of interpretive programs offered throughout the weekend. Programs include topics like fish and mussel identification, forest hikes and campfire breakfasts. Campers and local area residents interested in attending the interpretive program, should either call the park office directly or visit the state parks website for information on the program content, times and locations.

All DNR managed state parks, recreation areas and forest campgrounds with the exception of Clear Lake and Viking Lake State Parks are participating. Clear Lake and Viking Lake campgrounds are closed due to renovation. Bellevue State Park will participate but will not have modern restroom or shower facilities available. For a complete list of state parks, recreation areas and forests and other information about the weekend, visit the state park website at [www.exploreiowaparks.com](http://www.exploreiowaparks.com).

**For more information contact, Arntzen at 515-242-6233.**

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## **WALLEYE SEASON OPENS MAY 3 ON IOWA GREAT LAKES**

SPIRIT LAKE – The 127<sup>th</sup> walleye season at Spirit Lake, East Lake and West Lake Okoboji officially begins on May 3, and like every year, the boat ramps and bait shops will be busy leading up to the midnight fishing frenzy.

Each year, thousands of anglers head to area campgrounds and motels believing they will catch their limit of old marble eye. But each year it seems the wily walleye gets the last laugh.

"Oh, it will be different this year. I'm planning a different and revolutionary approach that actually coaxes fish into biting," joked Kevin Brinker, of Clive, a veteran of three

openers. “It’s always a good time. I just hope the weather cooperates and we catch some fish.”

Strategies vary from fishing all night to waiting until a reasonable time – say... 6 a.m. – to go out. If past openers are any indication, there hasn’t been one method that works over others. Using live bait on jigs, trolling crankbaits, long lining crankbaits, wade fishing, boat fishing, using live bait under a slip bobber, using live bait harnesses, scented baits, artificial lures or planer boards. The ideas are as endless as there are places to try them.

“The minnow imitating crankbaits and jig and minnow combos are the most popular presentations this time of year and probably are producing the most fish,” said Jim Berquist, with DNR fisheries office at Spirit Lake. He said leeches, if available, and night crawlers would be worth a try too.

Berquist predicted anglers fishing Spirit Lake during the low light times and overnight will catch more legal sized walleyes and those fish caught would be in the 17 to 20 inch range. He said most fish during the day would probably be less than the 14-inch length limit. Anglers fishing East Okoboji this past fall and winter had been catching nice sized walleyes. Success at West Okoboji will hinge on the water temperature, as it is the deepest lake and warms up last.

“There are good opportunities out there and I think this year will be comparable to previous openers,” Berquist said. “We’ll have a large influx of people, and if the weather is good, the boat ramps will be full.”

Berquist said if the walleye fishing during the day is a little slow, anglers should try for smallmouth bass. “If it is sunny and warm, smallmouth bass fishing would be excellent,” he said. “Use a jig and minnow over the rock piles. The weeds might be coming up by then and would be a good place to fish too.”

Walleyes must be 14 inches long to be legal size and only one fish longer than 20 inches may be kept. The daily bag limit is three with a possession limit of six. This year, the walleye opener is also part of the free camping weekend. Iowa residents may camp for free at any state park on May 2 to 4.

### **Sidebar: Longtime Local Law Enforcement Figure to Hang it up**

SPIRIT LAKE – The 2003 walleye opener will be the last for Denny Phillips, who has worked as a conservation officer in northwest Iowa for 28 years, and the last 14 years supervising fellow officers in his 15 county area. Phillips is retiring at the end of the year.

Over the years Phillips has seen quite a few interesting situations during the opener.

“Years ago people went out on anything that floated and we were kept busy spending time rescuing people from overturned boats and swamped boats,” Phillips said. “But times

have changed and the boats are better and people are using better judgement. But we are also busier. Each year it seems the opener is bigger and bigger. It's quite an event."

Many events associated with the opener have changed during his tenure, but Phillips did offer one thing that anglers can count on. "The weather is usually lousy," he laughed. "But on occasion it has been nice."

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## **FIVE DNR EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE**

DES MOINES – Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack and Lt. Governor Sally Pederson announced the winners of the 2003 Golden Dome awards today, including five staff from the Department of Natural Resources. The Golden Dome Award recognizes dedication and excellence by state employees. The awards will be presented on June 6, during a ceremony at the state capitol.

2003 Governor's Golden Dome Employee of the Year for exemplary service is awarded to Jean Prior, geologist, Iowa City. Prior was nominated for her part in promoting greater understanding and appreciation of Iowa's geological landscape. During her 38 years with the Iowa Geological Survey, Prior has worked to convey the importance of geology in protecting and preserving Iowa's natural resources.

2003 Governor's Golden Dome Leader of the Year for exemplary service is awarded to Paul Tauke, forester, Des Moines. Tauke was nominated for setting a record for the number of new conservation tree plantings, 13,500 acres, and for timber stand improvement, 12,500 acres, on private land in Iowa.

2003 Governor's Golden Dome Lt. Governor's Employee Volunteer Award is presented to Ron Andrews, wildlife biologist, Clear Lake. Andrews was nominated for his 14 years of service on the Clear Lake School Board and for developing environmental awareness in the city's young people. The award is for volunteering personal time or other services to nonprofit or charitable organizations.

2003 Governor's Golden Dome Employee of the Year for exemplary service is awarded to Steve Weaver, information technology, Des Moines. Weaver stepped in to work with the Electronic Licensing System for Iowa (ELSI) when the primary information technology staff resigned. Weaver worked in his dual role for nearly a year satisfying his internal and external customers looking for ELSI reports and data. Weaver also worked to improve the playground inspection reports that will save the Parks bureau staff time and promote safety of the DNR playground equipment.

2003 Governor's Golden Dome Leader of the Year for exemplary service is awarded to Todd Bishop, geographic information system coordinator, Des Moines. Bishop designed a color-infrared aerial photography project covering the entire state. The data is available digitally for use by local, state and federal agencies, businesses, academic institutions and citizens. The project is valued at \$1.4 million.

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## **SPRING TREE PLANTING WITH NATIVE SPECIES**

There is still time to plant trees and shrubs this spring. Many Iowans are planting large backyard areas, streamside borders and open fields for wildlife habitat and other conservation purposes. For large-scale plantings, 1 to 2 feet tall bare root seedling can be easy to plant and inexpensive. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources' web site [www.iowadnr.com/forestry/](http://www.iowadnr.com/forestry/) lists nurseries that sell seedlings grown in Iowa and the web site has plenty of tree planting information.

It is usually best to plant native tree and shrub species grown by nurseries located in Iowa. There are disease and insect species that can be accidentally imported on seedlings produced in other states and shipped into Iowa.

It is also a good idea to select tree and shrub species not just grown in Iowa but also native to the state. These species are adapted to Iowa's soils, extremes in temperature, and fluctuations between drought and flood. Iowa's wildlife are also accustomed to using native tree and shrub species for food, shelter and nesting sites

For more information, call 1-800-865-2477 or [www.iowadnr.com/forestry/](http://www.iowadnr.com/forestry/)

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## **FISHING CLINICS SCHEDULED FOR 2003**

DES MOINES – Free fishing clinics are scheduled around Iowa for 2003. Activities vary at each clinic and may include fish identification, how to operate a reel, different ways to cast, knot tying, how to handle fish, bait presentations and different fish cleaning methods.

Call the clinic for more details.

**May 10, Fishing Tournament, DeSoto Bend, Missouri Valley, 402-391-8471**  
**May 10, All Ages Fishing Clinic, Armstrong Park, Fort Dodge, 515-573-3407**  
**May 18, Fishing Tournament, Briggs Woods Lake, Webster City, 515-832-4504**  
**May 21, Kids Fishing Derby, Volga Lake, Fayette, 563-422-3883**



May 24, Youth Fishing Clinic, Lake Icaria, Corning, 641-322-4769  
 May 30, Family Outdoor Adventure, Annett Nature Center, Indianola, 515-961-6169  
 May 31, Youth Fishing Clinic, Bacon Creek Lake, Sioux City, 712-252-1335  
 May 31, Fishing Tournament, Armstrong Park, Fort Dodge, 515-573-3407  
 May 31, Youth Fishing Clinic, Discovery Park, Muscatine, 563-264-5922  
 May 31, Fishing Tournament, Lake Catherine, Forest City, 641-565-3990  
 June 1, All Ages Fishing Clinic, East Okoboji Fish Hatchery, Spirit Lake, 712-336-0465  
 June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Prairie Rose Lake, Harlan, 712-755-3104  
 June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, East Okoboji Fish Hatchery, Spirit Lake, 712-338-4238  
 June 7, All Ages Fishing Clinic, F.W. Kent Park, Tiffin, 319-645-2315  
 June 7, Fishing Tournament, Annett Nature Center, Indianola, 515-961-6169 x 25  
 June 7, All Ages Fishing Clinic, Crawford Creek Lake, Battle Creek, 712-359-3300  
 June 7, All Ages Fishing Clinic, DeSoto Bend, Missouri Valley, 712-642-5411  
 June 7, Fishing Tournament, Raccoon River Park, West Des Moines, 515-222-3321  
 June 7, Fishing Tournament, Izaak Walton League, Ottumwa, 641-682-3091  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Twin Springs Pond, Decorah, 563-382-4158  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Tournament, Lake Pahoja, Larchwood, 712-472-2217  
 June 7, All Ages Fishing Clinic, Wapsipinicon State Park, Anamosa, 319-462-4311  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, East Okoboji, Spirit Lake, 712-338-4238  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Lake Iowa, Victor, 319-647-3738  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Miller Park, Grinnell, 641-236-7135  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Willow Lake, Woodbine, 712-647-2785  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Pioneer Park, Shenandoah, 712-542-3864  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Mill Creek State Park, Paullina, 712-448-2254  
 June 7, Fishing Tournament, Beeds Lake State Park, Hampton, 641-456-4375  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Gustafson Lake, Sioux Rapids, 712-749-2563  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Marr Park, Ainsworth, 319-653-7765  
 June 7, Fishing Tournament, Gahn Wildlife Refuge, West Burlington, 319-753-5808  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Lake Hendricks, Riceville, 563-547-3634  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Sandy Hollow, Sioux Center, 712-552-3057  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Eldred Sherwood Park, Goodell, 641-923-2720  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Maquoketa River, Dundee, 563-933-4417  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Lake Anita State Park, Anita, 712-762-3564  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Pinicon Ridge Park, Central City, 319-892-6485  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Fontana Park, Independence, 319-636-2617  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Airport Lake Park, New Hampton, 641-394-4714  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Arrowhead County Park, Neola, 712-545-3283  
 June 7, Fishing Tournament, Swan Lake State Park, Carroll, 712-792-4614  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Heritage Pond, Dubuque, 563-556-6745  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, McGowen Recreation and Wildlife Area, Bloomfield, 641-664-2572  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Andrew Jackson Demonstration Farm, Andrew, 563-652-3783  
 June 7, Youth Fishing Clinic, Ikes Club House Lake, Newton, 641-792-0348  
 June 8, Fishing Tournament, Wilder's Park, Allison, 319-267-2742

June 8, All Ages Fishing Clinic, Glissman Area, Adel, 515-202-2552  
 June 8, All Ages Fishing Clinic, Pin Oak Marsh, Chariton, 641-774-2438  
 June 8, Fishing Tournament, East Park, Mason City, 641-421-3673  
 June 8, Youth Fishing Clinic, Water Works Park, Fairfield, 641-472-8460  
 June 8, All Ages Fishing Clinic, Crawford Creek Recreation Area, Battle Creek, 712-359-3300  
 June 11, Day Camp, Willow Lake, Woodbine, 712-647-2785  
 June 15, Youth Fishing Clinic, Spring Lake Park, Jefferson, 515-386-5674  
 June 16, Day Camp, Lime Creek Nature Center, Mason City, 641-423-5309  
 June 19, Youth Fishing Tournament, Lake Malone, DeWitt, 563-847-7202  
 June 20, Youth Fishing Clinic, Elks Lodge Pond, Charles City, 641-756-3490  
 June 21, Youth Fishing Clinic, Snyder Bend Lake, Salix, 712-258-0838  
 June 23, Day Camp, Lime Creek Nature Center, Mason City, 641-423-5309  
 June 28, Youth Fishing Clinic, Jefferson County Park, Fairfield, 641-472-4166 x2  
 July 3, Youth Fishing Tournament, LeMars Municipal Park Pond, LeMars, 712-546-5910  
 July 4, Youth Fishing Tournament, Iowa River, Iowa Falls, 641-648-4775  
 July 11, Adults with Special Needs, Erickson Pond, Clinton, 563-847-7202  
 July 12, Youth Fishing Clinic, Pioneer Ridge Nature Center, Ottumwa, 641-682-3091  
 July 14, Fishing Camp, Langwood Education Center, Grandview, 319-523-8381  
 July 17, Youth Fishing Clinic, Pioneer Ridge Nature Center, Ottumwa, 641-682-3091  
 July 18, Youth Fishing Clinic, Pioneer Ridge Nature Center, Ottumwa, 641-682-3091  
 July 26, Youth Fishing Clinic, Hannen Lake, Blainstown, 319-390-4756  
 July 26, All Ages Fishing Clinic, Lock and Dam Recreation Area, Pleasant Valley, 309-794-4301  
 Aug. 16, Youth Outdoor Skills Day, Horseshoe Pond, Maquoketa, 563-652-3783  
 Aug. 23, All Ages Fishing Clinic, Lake Pahoja, Inwood, 712-552-3057  
 Sept. 20, Youth Fishing Clinic, Bobwhite State Park, Allerton, 641-873-4242  
 Sept. 27, Fishing Tournament, Bennett Pond, Bennett, 563-886-6930

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## ***IOWA FISHING REPORT***

**For the week of April 29, 2003**

**[www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com)**

For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

### **Northwest**

**Spirit Lake** (Dickinson): Anglers are catching lots of crappies and a few bluegills at the Grade and Templar Park areas. Sorting is required to keep a mess of eaters. Small jigs

tipped with a wax worm suspended below a bobber works well. Bullhead activity has begun with large fish being caught from the Grade. This will improve as the water temperature warms. Smallmouth bass fishing is excellent. Fish the rocky areas. The best action is on calm, sunny days.

**West Okoboji** (Dickinson): Anglers are catching crappies at the trestle, Triboji, at the harbor and in the canals. The best presentation is a slip bobber and a small crappie jig about 6 to 10 inches below. Some largemouth bass are being caught along the shallows of the lake using a rattletrap and spinner bait.

**Silver Lake** (Dickinson): Anglers fishing from shore after dark are catching some walleyes. Use a leech under a lighted bobber for the best results. There are good numbers of 14 to 17 inch walleyes in the lake.

**Lost Island Lake** (Clay and Palo Alto): Bullhead fishing will improve as the weather warms.

**Five Island Lake** (Palo Alto): An excellent crop of 16 to 19-inch walleyes are available in Five Island. Public access is available on the south side of the lake, but there are good opportunities fishing north of the bridge.

**Little Sioux River** (Buena Vista and Clay): Good numbers of walleyes of all sizes are available from the Linn Grove Dam to below the town of Peterson. Use a 1/16-ounce or 1/8-ounce jig head with a white or chartreuse twister tail, or a jig with a minnow or night crawler for the best results. The river stretch from Spencer to Sioux Rapids is also reporting good fishing for 15 to 20 inch walleyes, using similar baits and presentations.

**Clear Lake** (Cerro Gordo): Walleye fishing remains good for anglers fishing from a boat and those wading. Fish the reefs or shallow, rocky shorelines with a jig and minnow. Sunset has been the best time for walleyes. Yellow bass fishing is excellent on warmer days. Fish the west end of the lake with small jigs, minnows or cut bait. Yellow bass sizes range from 8 to 11 inches. Bullhead fishing is excellent. Use night crawlers on windy shorelines or the Ventura Grade fishing jetty. Bullhead sizes are excellent. Fish nearing a pound are common.

**Beeds Lake** (Franklin): Crappie fishing late into the evening has been good. Fish along the causeway and north shore jetties with small jigs or minnows. Crappie size ranges from 7 to 10 inches.

**Lower and Upper Pine Lakes** (Hardin): Crappie fishing along the outside edges of downed trees is good. Use small jigs and minnows around the brush for best results.

**Black Hawk Lake** (Sac): Bullhead fishing is good for nice size bullheads all over the lake. Catfish are good on shad entrails.

**Storm Lake** (Buena Vista): Channel catfish are good using shad entrails, cut shad or dead chubs on the windy shorelines.

**For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.**

## **Southwest**

**Viking** (Montgomery): Crappies and bluegills are being caught near the concession and pontoon areas of the lake.

**Manawa** (Pottawattamie): Crappies and bluegills are biting along the shallows and lagoons on jigs and minnows.

**Orient** (Adair): Fishing is good for 7-inch crappies on jigs and minnows.

**Three Mile (Union):** Anglers are catching walleyes and some muskies off the face of the dam. Channel catfish are being caught at the north end on cut shad. Fishing is good for crappies over deepwater (20 foot) brush piles. Largemouth bass fishing is good.

**Twelve Mile (Union):** Channel catfish is good at north end of the lake using cut shad. Walleye fishing is good along the face of the dam. Crappies are good in 20 foot of water, in the trees north of main ramp. Anglers are catching lots of yellow bass. Largemouth bass fishing is good.

**Big Creek Lake (Polk):** Some sub-legal walleye have been caught using lead-headed jigs and minnows. Channel catfish fishing has been good, with 2 to 3 pound fish taken. A few crappies are starting to hit with the better fishing in the 'Lost Lake' area; most fish are being taken in deeper water.

**Don Williams (Boone):** Crappie fishing is fair using plain hooks and minnows. Most fish are being caught in 15 to 18 feet of water. Largemouth bass fishing has been good using top-water lures around shoreline structure.

**Lake Ahquabi (Warren):** Bluegill and redear fishing has been picking up as the water warms with most fish caught using night crawlers or wax worms. Some crappies are being caught using crappie jigs and/or wax worms or worms.

**Hooper Lake (Warren):** Bluegill and redear have been caught with most fish in the 12 to 15 feet of water.

**Rock Creek (Jasper):** Crappie fishing has been slow. Use jigs and minnows in deeper water for better fishing. Largemouth bass fishing has been good using top-water lures.

**Easter Lake (Polk):** Crappie fishing has remained slow, with most anglers using wax worms. A few largemouth bass have been taken along the face of the dam.

**Saylorville Lake (Polk):** Crappie fishing has picked up in the marina area of the lake. Most reports indicate anglers are using micro-jigs and wax worms, or bobbers and minnow combinations.

**Des Moines River (Polk):** Anglers report catching channel catfish, some walleye and a few white bass with the best fishing below the dams up to Saylorville Lake.

**For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.**

## **Southeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19:** Fishing in Pools 16 to 19 is off to a slow start but may pick up soon. Water temperature is in the upper 50s. River stage at Muscatine is 9.2 and expected to rise steadily over the next week. Walleye and sauger fishing is slow. Look for white bass to begin hitting in the tailwaters or at the mouth of creeks. Bluegill and crappie fishing is slow to fair, but may be improving soon. Catfishing is slow to fair on shad guts.

**Lake Darling (Washington):** Water temperature is in the mid 50s. With cool weather forecasted for the week it will be a while before the crappies start to bite.

**Lake Odessa (Louisa):** A few crappies were biting before the last cold front. A little warm weather in this shallow marsh will bring the crappies back in.

**Lake Rathbun (Appanoose):** Crappies have been hitting on artificial presentations including crankbaits. Channel catfish have been biting on shad guts, worms and liver.

**Lake Miami (Monroe):** Bluegills and crappies have been biting on small jigs. Areas along the dam have been the most productive.

**Lake Wapello** (Davis): Bluegills have been biting on small tube jigs and ice fishing jigs tipped with wax worms. Fishing around structure such as cedar trees and pallet structures has been the most productive.

**Lake Sugema** (Van Buren): Walleyes and largemouth bass have been hitting on artificial presentations such as crankbaits. Crappies have been hitting small jigs and minnows.

**Coralville Reservoir** (Johnson): Crappie fishing has been good below Macbride dam from shore. Boat anglers are also picking up crappies throughout the reservoir. Channel catfishing has been fair in deeper areas with shallow water nearby on dead shad and shad guts. An occasional walleye has been caught below Macbride Dam.

**Lake Macbride** (Johnson): Crappie fishing has been fair in deeper water on jigs and or minnows. Walleye fishing has been slow; a few fish have been caught near the dam area and off the rock structures throughout the lake.

**Pleasant Creek** (Linn): White bass fishing has been fair on spinners and crankbaits. Catfish have been fair on night crawlers.

**Diamond Lake** (Poweshiek): Crappie fishing has been fair fishing jigs off the brush piles. Anglers are reminded that minnows are not allowed in Diamond Lake.

**Iowa River** (Louisa): Anglers are still picking up a few catfish on night crawlers and shad guts.

**Wapsipinicon River** (Jones): Walleye, northern pike and smallmouth bass fishing has been fair on artificial and live baits throughout the river.

**Farm Ponds:** Bluegill and bass fishing has been good in shallow parts of farm ponds on jigs and live bait.

**For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.**

## **Northeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15:** Water temperature at Guttenberg is 53 degrees and the water is slightly stained. Water levels are rising rapidly in Pools 9-11 due to heavy rains in parts of Wisconsin. Levels are expected to rise another 5 feet during the week, making fishing difficult. When river levels are high and turbid, natural bait produces the best fishing results. As rivers rise, food washes into the streams triggering fish to feed; however, the fish themselves are often displaced from their typical habitat. Try fishing near the shore in eddies or other areas where fish can feed by getting out of strong current flows. Prior to the high water, panfish angling was picking up in **Pools 9-11**. Bluegills, rock bass, crappies and yellow perch were reported in good numbers. Fishing minnows, worms or wax worms under a bobber caught the most fish. Smallmouth bass were also biting well on spinner and crank baits in **Pools 9-11** in current areas around rock piles. Largemouth bass were biting in backwater areas in **Pools 9-11** on spinner and crank baits. Drum and channel catfish are biting in **Pools 9-11** and these species may be your best bet in high water conditions. The river has risen 3 feet the past three days in **Pools 12-15** and another 3 to 4 feet rise is expected by the end of this week. Fishing has slowed. Channel catfish may start hitting around flooded timber and vegetation.

**Cedar River** (Mitchell and Floyd): Northern pike are good on crank baits.

**Cedar** (Bremer and Black Hawk), **West Fork Cedar** (Butler and Black Hawk) and **Shell Rock rivers** (Butler, Bremer and Black Hawk): Channel catfish are biting on dead

minnows and frozen frogs. Many stringers of channel cats are averaging between 3 ½ to 5 pounds. Smallmouth bass fishing is good on twister tails and jigs and minnows. Small walleyes are also hitting below the Waverly Dam.

**Wapsipinicon River** (Buchanan): Channel catfish are biting on minnows and night crawlers. Smallmouth bass fishing is good on minnows.

**Upper Iowa River** (Howard and Winneshiek): Redhorse and white sucker fishing continues to be good.

**South Prairie Lake, Mitchell Pit and East Lake** (Black Hawk): Bluegill and crappie fishing is picking up using wax worms or minnows on warmer days.

**Casey Lake** (Tama): Anglers are catching crappies and bluegills on jigs tipped with wax worms.

**Lake Delhi** (Delaware): Crappie fishing is picking up along the docks and around offshore structure using minnows.

**Volga Lake** (Fayette): Some crappies and bluegills are being caught off the universally accessible dock.

**Lake Meyer** (Winneshiek): Crappie fishing is fair on jig and minnows.

**Trout** streams are clear and trout fishing is excellent. For current trout stocking information, contact the Big Spring Hatchery at 563-245-1699, Decorah Hatchery at 563-382-3315 or Manchester Hatchery at 563-927-5736. You can also view the trout stocking calendar on-line by going to [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com), clicking on **Fish and Fishing** and then choosing **Favorite Pages**.

**For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.**

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